



## Michigan Orthopaedic Society

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July 3, 2005

State Representative Craig DeRoche  
Speaker of the House  
166 Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Speaker DeRoche:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Orthopaedic Society, which represents nearly 600 orthopaedic surgeons in the state of Michigan. I want to express strong opposition to House Bills 4904 and 4742 and would encourage instead, strong support of Senate Bill 618.

These bills deal with Michigan's Auto No-Fault insurance system and the possibility of managed care, and therefore limiting benefits and options for those who are injured in our state. As orthopaedic surgeons we are frequently involved in the care of these patients and understand the problems both the providers and patients face from the House bills.

For thirty years, Michigan's Auto No-Fault has added balance to a difficult and litigious situation. It has helped protect Michigan's drivers and passengers, and the providers who care for them. We hope to preserve and even strengthen this system for the benefit of our patients.

Specifically, we want to maintain full medical coverage for auto accident victims. We want to maintain the right to choose medical providers and specialty providers to maximize care and outcomes. We want to continue the ability for patients to collect from both their auto and health care insurers if the situation warrants. Those with catastrophic injuries have suffered enough without having large medical bills when they have paid for both types of insurance.

We also support SB 618 which also restores protections for children and mentally incompetent adults, maintains a victim's ability to obtain some damages for non-economic loss, and protects a victim from having their liability damages used to pay medical expenses.

Please look closely at these House Bills (4904 and 4742) and understand that they will definitely undermine both patient care and access to specialty care for injured drivers and passengers in the state of Michigan.

Respectfully,

*M. P.*

Martin Pallante, MD  
President, MOS